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Review of relevant United Nations plans and programmes of action pertaining to the situation of social groups: preparation for and observance of the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family

Statement submitted by the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council: International Federation for Home Economics on behalf of the undersigned non-governmental organizations: Greek Orthodox Archdiocesan Council, Rotary International, American Psychological Association, Associated Country Women of the World, International Federation of Business and Professional Women, Center for Migration Studies, Caritas Internationalis, International Kolping Society, International Federation for Home Economics, World Federation of Ukrainian Women's Organization, International Council of Psychologists, International Federation of Social Workers, World Family Organizations, Child Welfare League and International Movement ATD Fourth World

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996.

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As the United Nations community prepares for the fortieth session of the Commission on Social Development, we cannot forget that war, terrorism, disease and poverty have a significant impact on families. These tragedies have created or exacerbated many social problems that arise in situations of conflict and violence. Let us remember that:

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- It is families that are undermined and separated by poverty;
- It is families whose members are displaced or lost in conflict;
- It is the family that is the basic unit of all society;
- It is the family that is the centre of social development.

With this in mind, we must consider the many ways in which we can improve the lives of families throughout the world. As we prepare for the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family in 2004, it is imperative that all Governments are urged to:

- Provide a healthy and sustainable environment where all family members can attain economic and social well-being;
- Provide social services, including physical and psychological health, housing, nutrition, childcare, transportation and job-related training;
- Provide public education for all children especially the girl child;
- Provide family members with the opportunity to participate in community planning.

It is crucial that all members of a family be treated with dignity and respect. We must address the needs of the ageing population, which is increasing globally. In this context, we look forward to the International Day of the Family, 16 May 2002, when the programme for the day will present the theme, "Families and Ageing — Opportunities and Challenges".

In closing, we would like to recommend the following:

- The establishment of monitoring and reporting mechanisms to ensure continued progress of the recommendations set forth;
- An accurate and culturally sensitive assessment of the needs of individuals and families so that programmes and services are designed and implemented to be successful;
- We urge all Governments to seek and obtain financial recourses to support these recommendations, including microcredit programmes, global compact programmes and currency taxes.